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Women and Children's Hospital, Kozhikode.

* 715 *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many can be accommodated in the Women and Children's Hospital, Kozhikode, Malabar;

(*b*) what is the average bed-strength for the last three months; and

(*c*) what the Government propose to do with the old Headquarters Hospital building?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Two hundred and forty patients can be accommodated in the Women and Children's Hospital, Kozhikode.

" (*b*) The average attendance for the past three months is as under :—

January 1953	346·58
February 1953	383·64
March 1953	402·5

" (*c*) The question whether the old Headquarters Hospital buildings should be utilized as an annexe to the new hospital is under the consideration of Government."

Sri T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" In view of the fact that about 80 per cent of the patients who overcrowd the hospital and who are suffering from diseases of a serious nature, are refused admission for want of proper accommodation in the hospital and in view of the fact that the Radiologist and his paraphernalia attached to the Headquarters Hospital are at present having their rooms in the Women and Children's Hospital at Kozhikode, will the Government at least now see to it that a maternity centre is immediately attached to the Women and Children's Hospital at Kozhikode? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" There was once a proposal to house certain special departments in the old Headquarters hospital. As regards overcrowding in hospitals, to which the hon. Member had referred, I may tell him that that is not an unusual feature. Only yesterday I was in Cuddapah where the Headquarters Hospital has a sanctioned bed strength of 100 but I found as many as 270 patients accommodated there. As regards the Kozhikode old Headquarters Hospital, it is now considered not worthwhile to repair the old buildings, in view of the high cost involved. The Education department is asking for the use of the old buildings for housing a training school."

Sri T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that hundreds of patients are being kept waiting in the hospital at Kozhikode while at the same time the old hospital is being kept vacant? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is enough accommodation provided in the Women and Children's Hospital at Kozhikode. The new headquarters hospital has been put up at a high cost with enough bed strength."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In view of the overcrowding, will the Government immediately sanction the construction of blocks 5 and 6 attached to the new headquarters hospital, which are intended to be maternity wards? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As soon as funds become available, the question of extension will be considered."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received any memoranda from the public of Kozhikode for giving the old hospital buildings for opening an Ayurvedic college? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Education department require them and the matter is under consideration."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" In view of the overcrowding, will the Government consider any proposal for providing additional accommodation in the Women and Children's Hospital at Kozhikode? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As I said already, most of our hospitals are nowadays overcrowded. The question of putting up any additional construction can be considered only when we have sufficient funds."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Sir, my question has not been answered. In view of the overcrowding in the hospital at Kozhikode, and in view of the fact that the Radiologist and his paraphernalia are occupying a large portion in the same hospital, will not the Government ask the Radiologist to move somewhere so that the space occupied by him and his office may be used for providing some more beds for the patients? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the X-ray unit must necessarily be provided in every large hospital, as it is important for diagnostic."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" The Hon. Minister was frank enough to admit that there is overcrowding in our hospitals. May I know, Sir, whether there is any provision under the Five-year Plan for the construction of more hospitals in our State to relieve overcrowding? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, a few hospitals which are old are under re-construction and extensions are being made in respect of some other hospitals."

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MR. SPEAKER :—" Since the hon. Member Sri T. Lakshminarayana Reddi himself has put both the following questions and they also relate to the same subject, the Hon. Minister may reply to both of them straightway."

Number of buses plying from Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram, Anantapur district.

* 716 *Q.*—SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of buses plying from Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram via Nuthimadugu and Mamillapally;

(*b*) whether there were representations from bus-owners of Anantapur district to give permission for some more buses on these routes; and

(*c*) how many times this subject was placed on the agenda of the District Traffic Committee?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Two buses are plying on the entire portion of the route Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram via Nuthiamadugu and Mamillapally.

" (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*c*) I suppose the proposal was placed before the Regional Transport Authority, Anantapur, only once on 9th December 1952."

New bus route between Kalyandrug and Dharmavaram.

* 717 *Q.*—SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a new bus route was opened from Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram via Nuthimadugu and Mamillapally in 1953;

(*b*) if so, who were the applicants; and

(*c*) why the proposal was dropped at the time of granting the permit?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise."

SRI T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" Is it not a fact that the Government, because the shares of the existing company are being owned by a relation of a Congress M.P., allowed the company to continue and refused the request of the public in the locality to open a new bus route, to avoid congestion? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am not aware of the company or the Congress M.P. I am to say that the Government did carefully enquire into the matter and came to the conclusion that the route from Kalyandrug to Dharmavaram